CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A method for planning firmware card ports

on DSL multiplexors, comprising the following steps:

        querying an element management system for DSL

multiplexors; and

        for at least one multiplexor identified at the

10   element management system,

                identifying to the multiplexor the

characteristics of a card to be placed in at least one of

the ports on the multiplexor.

15   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of

querying an element management system for multiplexors

comprises requesting information from the element

management system identifying multiplexors that are

managed by the element management system.

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        3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of

querying an element management system for multiplexors

comprises forwarding a TLI to an element management

system.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying to the multiplexor the characteristics of a card to be placed in at least one of the ports of the multiplexor comprises identifying at least one of a card type, a card profile, and a software version.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying unplanned ports for at least one multiplexor.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying incorrectly planned ports.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying incorrectly planned ports comprises identifying planned ports that conflict with a predefined planning arrangement.

8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving an identification of at least one multiplexor.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the step of receiving an identification of at least one multiplexor comprises receiving at least one cilli code corresponding

5   to a multiplexor.

10.   A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions recorded thereon for performing the method recited in claim 1.

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11.   A method for planning firmware card ports in a DSL network, comprising the following steps:

retrieving from an element management system an identification of one or more multiplexor devices;

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retrieving from one of the multiplexor devices identified by the element management system information identifying the planning status of ports on the multiplexor device; and

forwarding planning information to the

20   multiplexor device.

12.   The method of claim 11, wherein the step of retrieving from an element management system an

identification of one or more multiplexor devices

comprises requesting information from the element

management system identifying multiplexors that are

managed by the element management system.

13.   The method of claim 11, wherein the step

of retrieving from an element management system an

identification of one or more multiplexor devices

comprises forwarding a TLI to an element management

system.

14.   The method of claim 11, wherein the step

of identifying to the multiplexor the characteristics of

a card to be placed in at least one of the ports of the

multiplexor comprises identifying at least one of a card

type, a card profile, and a software version.

15.   The method of claim 11, further comprising

the step of identifying unplanned ports on the

multiplexor identified by the element management system.

16.   The method of claim 15, wherein the step

of identifying unplanned ports comprises processing the

information identifying the planning status of ports on

the multiplexor device.

17.   The method of claim 11, further

comprising the step of identifying incorrectly planned

ports on the multiplexor identified by the element

management system.

18.   The method of claim 17, wherein the step

of identifying incorrectly planned ports comprises

processing the information identifying the planning

status of ports on the multiplexor device.

19.   A system for automatically planning

firmware card ports in a DSL network, comprising:

a processor for executing computer executable

instructions; and

memory for storing computer executable

instructions, wherein said memory has stored therein

computer executable instructions for performing the

following steps:

querying an element management system for DSL

multiplexors; and

for at least one multiplexor identified at the element management system,

identifying to the multiplexor the characteristics of a card to be placed in at least one of the ports on the multiplexor.